

REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claims 35 and 41 were objected to and have been amended to address the Examiner's objections. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 35 and 41.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claims 30 – 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 30, 37, 38 and 50 have been amended to address and the rejections. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 30 – 50 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. 101 Rejections

Claim 50 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claim 50 has been amended such that it is now in proper form for a process claim. It is respectfully submitted that claim 50 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 101.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claims 30 – 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP426391, issued to Hoshino. Hoshino discloses a process for producing a synthetic resin emulsion having polymer particles that are core-shell particles. The core particles are prepared by emulsion polymerization of an acrylate ester and another vinyl-type monomer copolymerizable therewith. The shell is formed on the surface of the core particles by emulsion polymerization of a vinyl-type monomer and then successively hydrolyzing the core portion of the particles with an alkaline material. Unlike the aqueous dispersion of latex particles of the present invention, the resultant core-shell particles of Hoshino do not provide adequate storage stability and do not have satisfactory resistance to water. Further, the particle sizes produced by the process of Hoshino are not uniform and thus the resultant emulsion is unsuitable for many purposes. As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) requires identity of invention, in view of the differences between Hoshino and the present invention it is respectfully submitted that claims 30 – 50, as amended, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Hoshino.

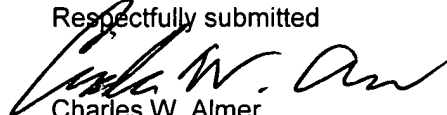
Claims 30 – 50 were also rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over EP 0 696 602, issued to Blankenship. Blankenship discloses an encapsulation of hydrophilic polymers wherein the hydrophilic core is formed from a hydrophilic monomer and a nonionic monomer. The hydrophobic shell is formed with a nonionic monomer and an acid-functionalized

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monomer, such as (meth)acrylic acid. Unlike the present invention, the process of Blankenship requires critical time-sequencing during the addition of the acid monomer in polymerizing the shell polymer. Thus, the resulting process is extremely complex and technically complicated. There are no such timing restrictions in the process of the present invention. . As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) requires identity of invention, in view of the differences between Blankenship and the present invention it is respectfully submitted that claims 30 – 50, as amended, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Blankenship.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that the Examiner wishes to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted



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